



City of Cincinnati

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MEDIA CONTACT: (513) 352-NEWS

CITY SANITATION COLLECTORS EXPERIENCE SCARE

CINCINNATI, OHIO (1/10/06) – Two City of Cincinnati Sanitation collectors with the Department of Public Services experienced a scare this morning when the garbage truck they were driving began smoking. Chemical materials, likely from a residential can they had placed on the truck caused a combustible reaction producing fumes. The Sanitation collectors became nauseated after inhaling the fumes and the fire department was called to the scene. As a precaution, the employees were taken to University Hospital for testing and have been released. City officials with the Fire Department are investigating the incident and have determined the chemical to be hydrochloric acid that interacted with Styrofoam in the trash. The incident is still under investigation.

Help Keep City Employees Safe

There are many everyday materials citizens use to enhance their lives, such as batteries, paint, motor oil, antifreeze, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and cleaning supplies. Although these materials contribute to the improvement of everyday living, they can also be hazardous to City employees and the environment if they are not disposed of properly. These kinds of materials should not be disposed of in weekly trash collection containers. Throwing away hazardous waste in garbage cans can injure solid waste collectors when hazardous waste mixes with other materials in the garbage truck. Cincinnati residents can help keep Sanitation workers safe by disposing of household hazardous waste properly.

Holly Christmann, Assistant Program Manager with the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District says, "Residents should carefully look at products with dangerous, hazardous, corrosive, and poisonous warnings or caution labels and not mix it with their regular garbage." She further suggests that most household hazardous materials are found in "automotive, cleaning, pesticide or home improvement products." The Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District's Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Drop-Off program will reopen on March 18, 2006 and run through the end of October. Once open, city residents will be able use the HHW Drop-Off site located on Spring Grove Avenue free of charge. For more information regarding household hazardous waste disposal, please contact the **Household Hazardous Waste Hotline at 513-946-7700**.

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